

March 13, 1975

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Nichol, the average increase under this proposed pay plan would be 10.03 percent. The lowest paid employees in the \$3,000 to \$4,000 range would receive 18 percent increase under this pay plan. We too are concerned about those in the very low bracket. Those in the upper bracket of \$16,000 to \$18,000 would receive 7.76 percent increase. The cost of living last year was approximately 13 percent. We are aware that the cost of living is greater for those at the lower end of the income bracket. Therefore, the average of our state employees would be less than the cost of living increase last year.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: May I ask another question please. \$468 cash, if a person worked for the State of Nebraska in May of 1975 would they get this \$468 then, the first of June, or whatever it was?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes sir they would. This would have the effect of raising the bottom level of that pay grade \$468. Hence forth we would not have as many people in that \$3,000 to \$4,000 bracket.

SENATOR NICHOL: The other question is, you stated 13 percent was the increase in the cost of living, is that in Nebraska?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes. The figures for Nebraska are 12.8 percent, which is nearly 13 percent.

SENATOR NICHOL: Does this include the city of Lincoln for the most part?

SENATOR MARSH: I assume it includes the average for the State of Nebraska, which would include Lincoln.

SENATOR NICHOL: Do you know what the average increase of income for people paying taxes is across the state?

SENATOR MARSH: About 14 percent across the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR NICHOL: Do you know what it will be in 1975, estimated figures?

SENATOR MARSH: No sir, I do not know.

SENATOR NICHOL: OK, thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair will recognize Senator Marvel for purposes of closing debate by way of reply.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Nichol, I'm going to answer your question. As I see it, the Legislature is faced with a dilemma and you can see that the committee was faced with a dilemma. The committee had no choice but to bring to you its majority findings. You will find that the majority of the committee is listed on the bill. Those who aren't on the bill didn't vote for it and I'm one who didn't. Let me try to be as objective as possible and say this, as legislators we're faced with the fact that you have a turn-over